

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District

1701 SOUTH B STREET, ALBIA, IA 52531 – 641.932.5144

FIRST QUARTER-FISCAL YEAR 2008

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Mervin McDanel, Chairman
Robert Henderson, Commissioner
Marvin Wirtjes, Assistant

Albert Tangie, Vice Chairman
Don Niebuhr, Commissioner
Helen Sinclair, Assistant

Susan Ammons, Commissioner
Colleen Putnam, Assistant
George Mackey, Assistant

Field Office Staff

John Frieden, District Conservationist
 Ronald Peterson, State Technician

Stacy Schlader, Soil Conservationist
 Diana Williams, State Secretary

Michael Gibbs, Soil Conservation Technician
 Jo Runnells, District Technician

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2008
 July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008

IM BUDGET:

Fiscal year allocation	\$2,124.81
Commissioners' expenses	\$715.69
Office supplies/postage/dues	\$1,409.12
Funds recalled	\$0

IIIM Budget:

07-08 Allocations	\$188,263.66
Supplemental	\$ 24,355.00
Total Cost Share	\$212,618.66
Paid	\$ 57,286.06
Recalled	\$ 267.24
Carry over	\$155,065.36

Revolving Account

Beginning Balance	\$10,794.99
Receipts	\$47,372.11
Total Receipts	\$58,167.10
Total Expenditures	\$51,971.85
Register Balance	\$ 6,195.25
Savings/Certificates	\$ 8,161.49
Total Balance	\$14,356.74

REAP PRACTICES

07-08 Allocations	\$25,287.79
Supplemental	\$120.00
Total Reap P	\$25,407.79
Paid	\$9,825.25
Recalled	\$2,413.00
Carry over	\$13,169.54

Employee Account

Beginning Balance	\$21,179.42
Receipts	\$42,969.00
Total Receipts	\$64,148.42
Total Expenditures	\$14,171.91
Total Balance	\$49,976.51

REAP FORESTRY & NATIVE GRASSES

07-08 Allocations	\$5,036.00
Supplemental	\$4,840.90
Total REAP F/NG	\$9,876.90
Paid	\$7,484.40
Recalled	\$2,392.50
Carry over	\$0

Accomplishments

Accomplishments	7/1/2007 to 6/30/2008
Conservation Systems Plans—(Acres) Planned	17312
Conservation Systems Plans—(Acres) Applied	15565
Conservation Systems Plans—(Number) Planned	179
Conservation Systems Plans—(Number) Applied	180
Cropland with conservation applied to improve soil quality (Acres)	8792
Land with conservation applied to improve water quality (Acres)	12477
Prescribed Grazing (Acres) - Planned	1644
Prescribed Grazing (Acres) - Applied	424
Riparian Forest Buffers (Acres) - Planned	9
Riparian Forest Buffers (Acres) - Applied	9
Conservation Buffers (Acres) - Planned	11
Conservation Buffers (Acres) - Applied	15
Terraces (Feet) - Planned	2900
Terraces (Feet) - Applied	3310
Erosion Control Structures (Number) - Planned	31
Erosion Control Structure (Number) - Applied	20
Biomass (Ac) - Planned	587
Biomass (Ac) - Applied	527
Forest/Brush Management (Ac) - Planned	1360
Forest/Brush Management (Ac) - Applied	595
Total Assistance to Customers	926

HELP PEOPLE HELP THE LAND Become An SWCD Commissioner!

- Help set local priorities for natural resources protection.
- Make decisions that will make your county a better place to live.
- Work with partners to improve the awareness and education of natural resource protection.
- Give back to your community by serving as a conservation district commissioner.
- To find out more, visit www.cdiowa.org or contact your local soil & water conservation district.



Pictured above are Monroe County Soil & Water District Commissioners. From left to right, front row: Bob Henderson, Susan Ammons, Co-Treasurer; back row: Don Niebuhr, Albert Tangie, Vice Chair and Mervin McDanel, Chair. Not pictured are Assistant Commissioners, Colleen Putnam, George Mackey, Marvin Wirtjes and Helen Sinclair

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District

Assistance Available for Erosion Issues

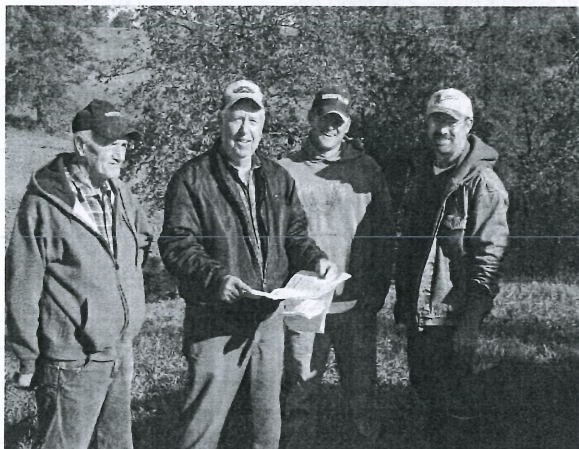
The gully in the back 40 acres is getting deeper. How do you stop something like that?

The Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners have Iowa Financial Incentives Program (cost share) funds and/or Local Watershed Protection Program (low interest loan) program to help solve erosion problems.

Cost share funds are available to help pay for up to 50% of the eligible cost, with a maximum of \$5000.00.

The low interest loan can cover expenses for eligible projects up to \$50,000.00 per application.

The two programs can be used together or alone. All projects must meet USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service construction specifications.



During preconstruction meeting, dozer operators review structure plan with Iowa Dept. of Ag-Division of Soil Conservation Technician Ron Peterson. Pictured left to right are, Gerald Frazier, Frank Rinehart, Michael Lathrop and Ron Peterson.

The cost share money is based upon the most economical alternative to solve the erosion problem. If the project area has a small drainage area or watershed, the landowner might be offered a dry pond (basin) or terrace that would drain through a tile down to a safe outlet area. Larger watersheds might require an impoundment structure (pond) to solve the erosion problem. Landowners that own livestock are required to fence the structure and pool for controlled grazing of the pond area.

Here is a chance to change that bad gully into a nice useful area on the farm!

Miller Creek Water Quality Project

Cooperating to protect our soil and water resources



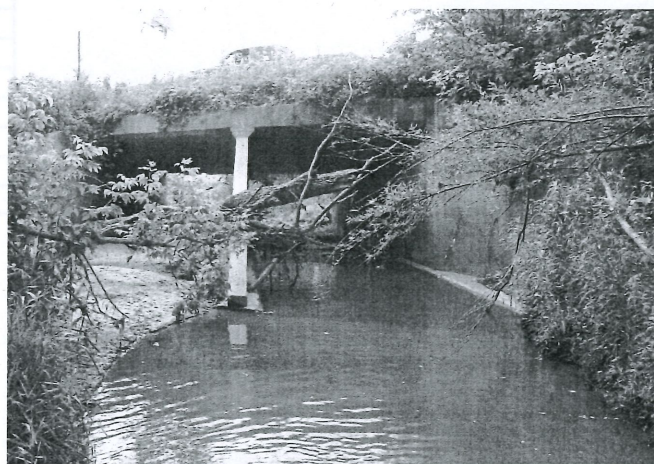
Monroe County SWCD recently received a grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture & Land Stewardship designed to aid in conducting a water quality assessment in the Miller Creek Watershed.

Miller Creek is approximately 20,000 acres located in the northeast part of Monroe County. It starts at the north edge of Albia and the Albia City reservoir and ends at Eddyville, emptying into the Des Moines River.

If the end result of this assessment identifies significant water quality problems, an implementation grant will be completed to secure funding for upland treatment in the watershed.

If approved, landowners in the watershed could receive up to 75% cost share to apply water quality practices.

Below: Ronald Reed oversees the initial training of the Miller Creek assessment.



If you live in the Miller Creek watershed and would like more information please call our office at 641-932-5144.

Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District

Soap Creek Watershed... Much More Than A Flood Control Project

If you would have asked Mervin McDanel or Ray Moore 20 years ago where they thought the Soap Creek Watershed project would be today they probably would have said not this close to completion. With the next contract ready to be let the Project will have over 100 of the 154 Flood control structures constructed. Both men are members of the Soap Creek Watershed board and have been for at least 20 years and more. They have been though it all ranging from good landowner cooperation to bad, lots of federal funding to none at all, and positive federal program continuation to more recently attempts to totally eliminate the PL566 watershed program. "It's all been worth the trials and tribulations", says Mr. McDanel. "We've had several 100 year storms in the recent past and the structures completed have kept Soap creek within it's banks and kept our bottomland crops from flooding and protecting the 4 counties secondary roads that typically receive flood damage.

The 4 counties that make up the sponsoring organization, include Appanoose, Davis, Monroe and Wapello. Each county has 2 members on the board. One member from the Board of Supervisors and one member from the Soil and Water Conservation District. Flood control is the primary justification for the 100 percent federal funding, however improved water quality, gully erosion control, improve fisheries and wildlife habitat and recreation are some of the side benefits. 21,000 acres plus located in the southeast corner of Monroe county make up the area within the county that is part of the watershed. Although Monroe county has the least amount of acres in the watershed, it does have 54 of the flood control structures located in Monroe and Urbana townships.



Irvin and Marilyn Faber are pictured here standing on the centerline of the proposed structure site 68-71A located on their

The 7acre plus impoundment is scheduled to be let under a construction contract in the near future. Irvin and his wife have operated the Soap Creek Christmas tree farm for a number of years making good use of this type of land for tree production. Irvin is a true gentleman of the woods with many other tree plantings including black walnut, and oak making use of his vast silviculture and forestry knowledge. He also maintains a beautiful native prairie which is worth the viewing. He is an avid wood worker making use of his native wood creating his works of art.

Soap Creek Watershed Livestock & Recreational Benefits



Soap Creek Watershed is no stranger to Kenny Martin. Kenny now has 2 structures built on his property with this being the latest. One last structure the largest of the 3 will be constructed sometime in the next year pending continued funding. This particular structure has a drop principle spillway pipe with a draw pipe shown with the orange lid. The purpose of the draw down pipe is to lower the pond water if necessary to allow a gas pipeline company to work on their gas line which under normal conditions will be submerged. Kenny will make good use of this structure for livestock water, a crossing and recreation.



Last year 4 Soap Creek structures were completed like this one located on the Randy Appleton farm. Randy has added some special features to his structure

including boat docks, fishing jetties, and bottom fish structure to enhance the recreational benefits associated with this 7 acre plus impoundment. The rains of 2008 have completely filled this structure. Building of these structures is a plus for the earth moving contractors and the local economy.